

TWO SPECIES OF SCUTTLE FLY  
(DIPTERA:PHORIDAE) NEW TO BRITISH LIST

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Continuing revision of the British species of *Megaselia* Rondani has revealed two further additions to the British List as well as clarification of some synonyms proposed by Robinson (1981). The details are given below.

*Megaselia brevior* (Schmitz, 1924)

Between 9 and 14 July 1978 I collected a series of this species from the garden of Juniper Hall Field Centre, Surrey, (Grid ref. 51/1752). They were provisionally assigned to *M. berndseni* (Schmitz) with a question mark. Subsequently this species was re-evaluated and *M. pygmaeoides* (Lundbeck) synonymised with it (Disney, 1985). Following this it became evident that the Juniper Hall specimens belong to *M. brevior*, a species previously known from Austria, Germany, Spain and the Azores.

*M. brevior* males differ from *M. berndseni* by having the terminal hairs of the proctiger only as strong as the hairs of the cerci; in having only a few short, almost colourless spines on the lower faces of the labella; and having shorter costal cilia and bristles on the axillary ridge of the wing. I have compared my specimens with some from the Schmitz collection.

*Megaselia ciliata* (Zetterstedt, 1848)

=*M. confulgens* Borgmeier, 1964. ♀. Misidentification

Robinson (1981) synonymised *M. confulgens* Borgmeier with *M. aequalis* (Wood), along with *M. nasoni* (Malloch). However, *M. aequalis* and *M. nasoni* are distinct species. The former has a normal fourth abdominal tergite in the female, whereas this tergite is abbreviated in the females of *M. aequalis* (as in *M. ciliata*). In both sexes these two species can be separated by leg colour. In *M. aequalis* both the middle and hind legs are entirely dark brown. In *M. nasoni* the middle legs are yellow brown. The larval habits also differ. Those of *M. aequalis* feed on slug eggs (Robinson and Foote, 1968) and those of *M. nasoni* on spider eggs (Disney and Evans, 1980). I formally resuce *M. nasoni* from synonymy.

Borgmeier's (1964) description of *M. confulgens* "Beyer in litt" was based on the examination of a single female paratype, whose description (despite supposed differences in haltere colour and degree of shine on the frons) lies well within the range of variation for *M. ciliata*. The male of *M. confulgens* (whose description by Borgmeier was based on "Beyer in litt") is, in my opinion, correctly synonymised with *M. aequalis* by Robinson (1981).

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*Megaselia devia* Schmitz, 1936

I have three males of this species from England. Two were collected by Mr. G. Forrester from a copse in the New Forest (Grid ref. 41/399009) 26 June – 3 July 1984. I collected a single specimen in my garden in Cambridge (Grid ref. 52/451602) 13-14 September 1984. The species is previously known from Holland and Spain.

The male of *M. devia* resembles *M. discreta* (Wood), *M. halterata* (Wood), *M. subfuscipes* Schmitz and *M. hirticaudata* (Wood) in having bristles on the epandrium. It is immediately distinguished by its vestigial posterior processes of the hypandrium.

*Megaselia limburgensis* (Schmitz, 1918)

Robinson (1981) synonymised this species with *M. fungivora* (Wood) on the basis of the specimens attributed to *M. limburgensis* by Borgmeier (1964). However I have specimens of *M. limburgensis* from Poland and England which agree with Schmitz's description and are clearly a different species from *M. fungivora*. Borgmeier's description of *M. limburgensis* lies within the range of variation of *M. fungivora*. Robinson (1981) correctly recognised that the specimens examined by Borgmeier were in fact *M. fungivora*, but he incorrectly proposed a synonymy rather than a misidentification. In view of this I formally rescue *M. limburgensis* from synonymy and recognise it as a valid species.

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